



FAIRFAX ACCESSIBLE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS: PARTNERSHIPS FOR PROGRESS



Background

- Transportation is a critical need for many population groups
 - ▣ People w/ disabilities
 - ▣ Older adults
 - ▣ Individuals with low income
 - ▣ Environmental advocates
- Bringing these groups together forms a powerful coalition for sustainable and accessible transportation

Sustainable Transportation

- ❑ Affordable
- ❑ Accessible
- ❑ Safe
- ❑ Equitable
- ❑ Efficient
- ❑ Environmentally-friendly



Why is Sustainable Transportation Presently Important?

- United States is currently home to more than 54.4 million people with disabilities
- Car ownership is costly and increasingly out of reach for many people living in the United States—with or without disabilities
- Public transportation reduces emissions, fuel consumption, and congestion

Importance of Sustainable Transportation for the Future

- Older adults represent the fastest growing demographic in this country
 - ▣ As the number of older adults increases and our population ages, so will the number of older adults who can no longer drive personal vehicles
 - ▣ Along with longevity comes greater interest among older adults to participate in the work force, age-in-place, and access needed social and health services
- Traffic congestion
- People with disabilities compose 11% of Fairfax County population
 - ▣ This will increase with returning soldiers
 - ▣ Aging population

Did you know...

- Households that use public transportation save \$1,399 worth of gas each year (American Public Transportation Association)
- Each public transit bus on the road in Virginia can remove up to 40 cars from traffic and each passenger rail car can remove up to 125 cars from highways (Virginia Transit Association)
- Transit use in the United States saves 1.4 billion gallons of fuel per year—or almost four million gallons of fuel per day (American Public Transportation Association)
- Transit reduces the nation's carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually (American Public Transportation Association)

Accessibility

- Regional transportation is 100% accessible, but...
 - ▣ Travel training needed
 - ▣ Buses are accessible, but the many pathways/bus stops in Fairfax County are inaccessible
 - ▣ Attitudinal barriers

Barriers Facing an Accessible Sustainable Transportation System

- ❑ Some bus routes are commuter-centric
- ❑ Cost
- ❑ Some areas of the county are not served by public transit
- ❑ County paratransit (Fastran) is limited
- ❑ Marketing materials in other languages besides English & Spanish
- ❑ Perception of safety

Next Steps

- Hold seminars in other county districts on transportation options available in Fairfax County
- Promote WMATA's travel training
- Coalition building
 - Bring together people with disabilities, older adults, environmental advocates, and low income individuals to advocate for more accessible, sustainable transportation
- Work to remove existing barriers



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